

Adult Literacy Contact Centre NEWSLETTER



August 1992

Volume 5, Number 7

A project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.

News Conference Launches 1992/1993 Cost-Shared Projects

Forty-one B.C. literacy cost-shared projects for 1992/1993 were announced at a joint federal/provincial press conference held July 10, 1992 in Vancouver.

The projects are part of the federal/provincial cost-shared program between the National Literacy Secretariat, Multiculturalism and Citizenship Canada, and the B.C. Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology.

The announcement of the \$1.4 million for B.C. projects was made by Benno Friesen (MP Surrey/White Rock/Langley) on behalf of Multiculturalism and Citizenship Canada Minister Gerry Weiner and by Advanced Education Minister Tom Perry.

Approximately 60 guests, including representatives from several of the funded projects, attended the event, held at Simon Fraser University Harbour Centre.

In addition to Friesen and Perry, the other speakers were Betty Nobel, Chair, B.C. Literacy Public Awareness Campaign (LPAC), and Digital Equipment of Canada Ltd. Vice-President of Operations Peter Richardson. Digital has donated \$350,000 to the Speech Assisted Reading and Writing (SARAW)

program which teaches basic reading and writing skills to adults with severe physical disabilities. Digital is a collaborating partner in the project with Capilano College and the Neil Squire Foundation.

The Foundation is a national non-profit organization (based in North Vancouver) which, "through the research, development and application of modern technology, aims to create opportunities for greater independence for persons with severe physical disabilities."

In his address, Perry said that the cost-shared program "recognizes first and foremost the necessity of involving grassroots voluntary organizations in the implementation of local literacy projects, and that "...countless hours of volunteer work is involved in tutoring, training tutors and organizing literacy programs." The Minister also said that "Partnerships between private industry, educators, governments, and volunteers -- and programs such as SARAW -- are necessary, welcome and deserving of recognition."

The event featured the airing of two television and two radio literacy public service announcements (PSA's), currently being

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broadcast by commercial radio and television stations throughout the province. The B.C. Association of Broadcaster's annual Humanity Award is providing the LPAC with approximately \$700,000 in donated air time over 1992/1993.

Displays at the conference were mounted by the following agencies: Adult Literacy Contact Centre, Literacy B.C., the Literacy Materials Committee, the Native Adult Education Resource Centre, the Open Learning Agency, and SARAW.

Some examples of the 1992/1993 projects include:

First Nations Literacy Publications

This project will involve First Nations literacy students in the writing and publishing process: students will produce three publications with themes around the role of elders and the cultural knowledge they share.

Collaborating Partners: Native Education Centre, Vancouver Community College

Literacy Moments - Network for Women

The goal of this project is to establish a women's literacy network, "Literacy Moments" coffee get-togethers, and to help women in the region form their own literacy groups.

Collaborating Partners: College of New Caledonia; Nechako Valley Community Services, Vanderhoof

Intergenerational Family Literacy: A Community Model

Designed to examine the need for family-based literacy programming in urban and rural communities, this project will involve community members, including learners, who have an interest in family literacy, in literacy advisory committees on the North Shore and in the Fraser Valley.

Collaborating Partners: Capilano College, University College of the Fraser Valley, Fraser Valley East Literacy Association, North Shore Neighbourhood House

We Have an Understanding

Aimed at bridging the generational and cultural gap between the elders and the young women on the reserve, this project is designed to produce reading materials for the 5000 members of the Kwakwaka'wakw First Nations and for the reserve's Literacy Centre and proposed Elders Cultural Centre, as well as North Island College literacy students.

Collaborating Partners: North Island College and the Gwa'Sala-'Nakwaxda'xw Council

Access News

The local newspaper (*Elk Valley Miner*) will publish a weekly literacy page which will: keep learners, tutors and the community informed about upcoming literacy events; encourage other learners through profiles of local success stories; provide curriculum for learners; and recruit new learners and tutors.

Collaborating Partners: East Kootenay Community College, the Fernie Chamber of Commerce, and the *Elk Valley Miner*

Health for All

This awareness project for health, medical and social service workers in the north concerns program delivery and barriers restricting access for people with low literacy skills or whose first language is not English.

Collaborating Partners: Northwest Community College, Project Literacy Houston, Houston Health Centre, Houston Community Services

To obtain a copy of the *1992/1993 Cost-Shared Projects: Contacts and Goals* - a list of all projects with details - contact:

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Ministry of Advanced Education,
Training and Technology
Universities, Colleges and Institutes
Second Floor
838 Fort Street
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4
Phone: 387-6174
Fax: 356-8851 ☐

New Provincial Literacy Coordinator

The Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology (MAETT) has named B.C.'s new Provincial Literacy Coordinator.

Mary Waddington, Vancouver Community College (King Edward Campus) Basic Education Department Head, takes over the one-year secondment position effective August 1, 1992. She succeeds Pat Hodgson, who will return to the Adult Basic Education Department at Capilano College.

The role of the Provincial Literacy Coordinator is to coordinate the overall direction, development, delivery and evaluation of adult literacy programs and resources in B.C. The Coordinator also manages the funding of the \$1.4 million 1992/1993 literacy projects cost-shared between the MAETT and the National Literacy Secretariat.

Waddington has taught in the literacy field since 1974. She began her career with the Prince George school district, where she taught grade 10 English and English as a second language ("or English for new Canadians, as it was known then," says

Waddington) in the district's continuing education department.

She was VCC/KEC Basic Education Department Head from 1980 to 1987 and again from 1990 to 1992.

Waddington followed her BA with a Diploma in Adult Education from the University of British Columbia and is working towards a Masters degree in higher education. She has also been "actively involved" in the ABE articulation process (which sets course requirements and course content for different levels of certification within the college ABE system). She is co-author of the *1992 Review of Adult Basic Education Articulation in B.C.*

Waddington says she has "had the opportunity to be involved in some community-based literacy projects, such as Vancouver's Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House, through the KEC Basic Education Department." She is "looking forward to working with everyone in the field."

Mary Waddington
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Phone: 387-6174
Fax: 356-8851 ☐

UVic Offers Adult Education

A Certificate in Adult and Continuing Education (CACE) program will be offered through the University of Victoria beginning in the fall of 1992.

Courses will be available primarily by distance education which includes print materials, audio and video tapes, teleconferencing and INFOLINE, the university library's reference service for off-campus students.

Four core courses (available during the 1992/93 winter session) are:

Program Planning in Adult Education
Foundations of Adult Education
Facilitating Adult Education
Adult Learning and Development

Elective courses are:

Teaching Literacy Skills to Adults
Instructional Technologies in Adult Education
Instructional Design in Adult Education
Marketing Adult Education
Counselling/Advising the Adult Learner
Learning in the Workplace

For additional information, contact:

Diane Anderson or Wes Koczka
Education Extension
University of Victoria
PO Box 3010
Victoria, B.C.
V8W 3N4
Phone: 721-7874
Fax: 721-7767 ☐

Manual Helps Tutors Teach Numbers

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1	3	4	6

The Langley Education Centre has produced a guide designed for beginning tutors of adult math students.

The *Tutor Mathematics Resource Manual* is the product of a 1991/1992 cost-shared project between the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology and the National Literacy Secretariat.

The 80-page soft-cover booklet, illustrated with black and white

graphics, has chapters covering: understanding numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, rounding and estimating, fractions, decimals, percentages and the metric system. A chapter on money management includes a section on banking, which includes the suggestions that tutors arrange a class visit with a bank representative to explain banking procedures, and use actual bank forms for classroom practice. The chapter also explains cheque writing and basic budgeting.

Editor Loraine Wong, of the Langley Education Centre's volunteer tutor program, "Read All About It," says the program recognized the need for math instructional materials because "some tutors who found themselves suddenly working in math have felt ill-equipped."

To help identify specific areas of difficulty for tutors, Wong and project members Barbara McPherson and Patricia Wright distributed a questionnaire to approximately 175 B.C. programs that use volunteer tutors in October, 1991. The manual is a response to the survey results.

Wong says they got "a very good response -- higher than expected," to the survey. "We asked for feedback in the areas that were the most problematic for tutors," she explains, "and got replies in every area, many which covered a higher level

of mathematics." Wong says the manual "tried to address these responses, but it is primarily designed for students and tutors working with basic [math] concepts."

The *Manual* has been distributed to all the programs that were sent the questionnaire, and additional copies are available from:

Loraine Wong
Langley School District (#35)
Langley Education Centre
Sundel Square
215 - 20216 Fraser Highway
Langley, B.C.
V3A 4E6
Phone: 534-7155 ☐

Adult Literacy Contact Centre Newsletter

622 - 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8
1-800-663-1293 Toll-free in B.C.
684-0624 Lower Mainland
684-8520 Facsimile

The Adult Literacy Contact Centre is a project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. and is jointly funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology; and the National Literacy Secretariat.

The Centre welcomes receiving your literacy news by phone, fax or mail. We reserve the right to edit written submissions for the newsletter.

The newsletter is published monthly and mailed during the first week of every month. It is available free of charge to any individual or agency upon request.



New Writers Surface in *Off the Wall* Anthology

The Carnegie Adult Learning Centre in Vancouver has published its first collection of writings by its learners, tutors and staff.

Off the Wall: Writings from the Carnegie Adult Learning Centre is a 43-page booklet which contains poems, personal histories, essays, and stories from 44 contributors, the majority of whom are learners. The publication was launched at a Learners' Conference held at the Centre on June 2, 1992.

In an introduction to the booklet, Carnegie Adult Learning Centre Coordinator Lex Baas says the writings are "a celebration of the community of writers associated with the... Centre. Community because we work together and believe in the social nature of learning, that shared experience which celebrates the joys and listens to the frustrations of people who participate in the activities of our Centre."

Debbie Bryant, Carnegie Literacy Outreach Worker, explains the writings are a compilation of weekly "free writing" sessions in which learners, tutors and staff are encouraged "to tell our stories,

increase our reading and writing skills and participate directly in the community process of sharing and learning."

Bryant says, "We invite feedback from our readers and enquiries about future volumes."

The publication was funded by grants from the National Literacy Secretariat, Multiculturalism and Citizenship Canada, and the Vancouver Foundation.

Bryant says *Off the Wall* will continue to publish on a regular basis, and copies will be circulated among other adult learning centres and literacy projects. Copies of the first issue are also available free of charge through the Adult Literacy Contact Centre.

The Carnegie Centre is one of four adult learning centres operated by the Vancouver School Board (Career and Community Education Services).

For information on this publication and other Centre activities, contact:

Debbie Bryant
Literacy Outreach Worker
Carnegie Adult Learning Centre
3rd Floor
401 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6A 2T7
Phone: 665-3013
Fax: 684-8442 ☐

SkillPlan Honours Basic Skills Upgrading Students

Participants in a six-month pilot project to promote basic skills upgrading in the B.C. construction industry received their certificates in a ceremony in Burnaby last month.

Tradespeople representing a cross-section of the industry took part in the *SkillPlan* Basic Skills Upgrading Project, which began in December 1991 and was completed in June 1992. The Project was developed as a joint union-management initiative by the B.C. Construction Industry Skills Improvement Council (*SkillPlan*) and delivered in cooperation with the Open Learning Agency's (OLA) Workplace Training Systems. The certificate presentation took place on July 16, 1992 at the OLA's Burnaby Learning Centre (4299 Canada Way, Burnaby) where the training took place.

Several students, of the more than 100 workers from 23 construction unions who took part in the program, participated in the ceremony. Guest speakers were Tom Perry, Minister of Advanced Education, Training and Technology; Glen M. Farrell,

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President, OLA; and Bill Day, Chairman of *SkillPlan's* Board of Directors and President of Douglas College.

Certification available to students in the program included the Adult Basic Education Intermediate and Advanced certificates (Grades 10 and 11 equivalency), Provincial Articulation (Gr. 12), and the Provincial General Educational Development (GED) certificate. Learners may also receive applicable OLA transferable credits and certificates of completion.

Funding to continue the program province-wide is currently being sought. □

Literacy Audit for Social Agencies

A Calgary adult literacy awareness project, in conjunction with some of that city's social service agencies, has produced a free package designed to enable organizations to assess how "user-friendly" they are to low literate adults.

The *Literacy Audit for Social Agencies* was developed by the Calgary Literacy Awareness Project. Founded in 1990, the Project was a literacy advocacy, information and referral service, serving the Calgary area.

Funding for the project, from the Alberta government and the Department of the Secretary of State, ended in June, 1992.

The Project's objectives were to: increase awareness of the problems of low literacy and encourage solutions; help low literate adults find appropriate programs; and refer potential literacy volunteers.

The audit was created by Project Director Jim Bell, and Assistant Director Anne Trussler. It was funded by the National Literacy Secretariat and the Alberta government. The audit was pilot tested with agencies such as Alberta Family and Social Services, Calgary Housing, the John Howard Society and the Workmen's Compensation Board.

The package is aimed at agencies which serve both the general population and "groups with well-documented reading and writing problems, [such as] senior citizens, Natives, offenders, and people whose first language is not English."

The double-pocketed (8 1/2" x 11") two-colour folder is divided into five information sheets and six working audit sheets. For example, a "client literacy" sheet suggests ways to recognize if a client has a literacy problem.

The audit portion consists of worksheets for use by an agency to conduct an in-house

evaluation of its facilities, staff, materials and policies. The six areas targeted for evaluation are: Access, Reception Area, Receptionists, Print, Professionals, and Clients. A worksheet for each area presents some specific statements of good practice and a five-point scale for the agency to rank its performance.

For example, the "Print" worksheet includes the following statements:

- ❖ all the forms we use are essential
- ❖ print materials have ample white space as relief from the print
- ❖ non-print help (e.g. staff, volunteers, audio tapes, videos) is available for completing forms
- ❖ our print materials are written in plain language

Five hundred copies of the audit have been distributed to groups and individuals across Canada.

The audit is available from:

Calgary Adult Literacy Awareness Project
(c/o) The United Way of Calgary
120-13th Avenue S.E.
Calgary, Alberta
T2G 1B3
Phone: (403) 263-0720
Fax: (403) 266-1271 □

Canadian Vocational Association Conference

Adult educators will join representatives from business, government and industry at the Canadian Vocational Association Annual Conference, "Challenges and Opportunities in Vocational Education," in Victoria, October 28 - 31, 1992.

Some of the sessions scheduled at the conference include:

Human Resource Development in B.C.: An Update, with Dr. Paul Gallagher, Director, B.C. Human Resource Development Project, and Jeanette Matson, Project Coordinator

The SkillPlan Literacy Upgrading Program, with Lynda Fownes, Research Director, B.C. Construction Industry Skills Improvement Council (SkillPlan)

Who's Responsible? Conflicting Federal/Provincial Legislation Governing the Training of Adults in Canada, with Susan Witter, Dean of Continuing Education, University College of the Fraser Valley, Abbotsford

The New Paradigm: Productivity, Competitiveness and Workplace Training, with Geoff Stevens, Director, Instruction/Workplace Training, Open Learning Agency, Burnaby

Improving Accessibility: The Partnership, Access and Bridging Programs, by John Betts, Dean, and Kevin Carter,

Associate Dean, Division of Science and Technology, and Wilf Nienaber, Physics Department, Camosun College

Two of the keynote speakers are:

❖ Stephen Lewis, former Canadian representative to the United Nations and special representative to UNICEF, and;

❖ Stuart Smith, former Chair of the Science Council of Canada and past chair of the Association of Universities and Colleges in Canada (AUCC) Commission of Inquiry on Canadian University Education.

The early registration deadline is September 1, 1992.

For further information, contact:

Lynn Hahn
Conference Coordinator
Camosun College
4461 Interurban Road
Victoria, B.C.
V8X 3X1
Phone: 370-3820 or 370-4000
Fax: 370-3898 ☐

READ Canada Relocates

READ Canada, a national children's reading program, has a new address for its B.C. associate in Vancouver.

READ Canada is a national program of Frontier College, and is sponsored by the Department of the Secretary of State. READ Canada associates across Canada organize "reading circles" in which adults read stories with children on a weekly basis in clubs, community centres and after-school programs.

For further information, contact:

Beth Pritchard
BC Associate, READ Canada
1661 Napier Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V5L 4X4
Phone: 253-4391, local 30
Fax: 253-4361 ☐

REMINDER ...Tuesday, September 8, 1992 is International Literacy Day. Two years ago, the United Nations General Assembly designated 1990 as International Literacy Year (ILY) and that year also marked the 25th anniversary of International Literacy Day. There is no UN officially-designated "literacy week" or "literacy month" but groups may declare the occasion in their communities if they wish. Some B.C. communities will be planning events during the week of September 8 -- contact your local library or literacy group. ☐

Alberta Literacy Conferences

B.C. participants are invited to register after September 1, 1992 for the Alberta Association for Adult Literacy (AAAL) provincial conference scheduled for November 19-21, 1992 in Red Deer, Alberta.

The conference, called "Maintaining Momentum," will feature presentations for students and learners; adult basic education instructors; English as a second language tutors and instructors; workplace literacy interests; and others in the literacy field.

Speakers confirmed to date include CBC radio broadcaster and author, Arthur Black, and Alberta author Marilyn Halverson.

For further information, contact:

Donna Grutter
Volunteer Tutor Bank Coordinator
The Literacy and Learning Centre
Red Deer College
Box 5005
Red Deer, Alberta
T4N 5H5

Phone: (403) 346-2523 ☐

Family literacy will be explored at a two-day event hosted by an Alberta community college this fall. The Roots of Literacy - A Family Literacy Symposium, will be held at Medicine Hat College, Brooks Campus, on October 2-3, 1992.

The event will feature small group discussions on Alberta's family literacy programs and keynote speaker Dr. Ruth Nickse, an adult basic education consultant with the Adult Literacy Resource Centre, University of Pennsylvania.

Registration is limited to 100 participants. The registration deadline is September 15, 1992.

For more information, contact:

Anne Marie Shields
Division of Community Education
Brooks Campus,
Medicine Hat College
Brooks, Alberta
T1R 1E5

Phone: (403) 362-7373 ☐

Learning Disabled to Meet in Vancouver

Learning disabled students will be part of a national conference to be held in Vancouver this fall. Education: A Key to Independence, is the theme of the fourth conference of the National Educational Association of Disabled Students (NEADS), scheduled for November 6-9, 1992.

The conference is designed to provide a forum for students with disabilities from across Canada to examine issues relating to access to post-secondary education. Other delegates to the conference will include employers, disabled student services personnel, educators, academics, and government representatives.

The conference is hosted by the British Columbia Educational Association of Disabled Students.

Workshops on "Disabled Student Services" and

"Learning Disabled Students and the Learning Environment," are planned.

The registration deadline for the conference is September 25, 1992.

For information, contact:

NEADS
4th Level Unicentre
Carleton University
Ottawa, Ontario
K1S 5B6
Phone (613) 233-5963 ☐